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To: btaylor@memphistomorrow.org
"William Gibbons \(\wgibbons\)" <wgibbons@memphis.edu>
Date: 12/7/2016 4:00:02 PM
Subject: RE: osc legislative priorities

We have just the one we previously drafted, or is there something else? Are you looking for us to flesh out any of the items on this document? This is what we previously drafted:

Enhance state sanctions for felons in possession of firearms.

The Memphis Shelby Crime Commission will support the introduction of legislation in the Tennessee General Assembly to address the problem of illegal possession of guns by those with felony records and help garner support for the legislation from across the state. This proposed legislation would amend Tennessee Code § 39-17-1307 (2014), which governs sanctions for state violations relating to unlawful carrying or possession of a weapon—firearms generally and handguns specifically in some cases. The proposed amendments would increase the classification of felony assigned to each category of offense under sections (b)(1) and (c)(1) of the statute to ensure longer sentences for those felons illegally in possession of firearms.

Research nationally and locally has demonstrated that policies and practices designed to hold offenders accountable, coupled with conveying the consequences to potential offenders, can have a significant impact on the crime rate. For example, the federal-state-local crackdown on violent gun crime known as Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), when coupled with the DA's no plea bargaining policy for the most serious gun crimes and accompanying communication campaign (Gun Crime = Jail Time), had a dramatic effect on reducing gun crime, in large part by addressing illegal possession of guns by those with criminal records. The strength of that effort, however, relied heavily on federal law and its tougher penalties, since state law is still not as strong as it needs to be in this area. There aren't enough federal resources currently to deal with all illegal gun possession cases. Strengthening the state laws will allow the DA to more effectively prosecute in state court convicted felons in possession of guns.

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From: Blair Taylor [mailto:btaylor@memphistomorrow.org]
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Subject: osc legislative priorities

Can you guys quickly add to this for me the OSC legislative priorities. Just a short blurb on each.

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